

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 2 - 8, 10 - 29, and 31 and 32 are currently pending. With this Response, claim 10 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 16, 17, 21, 23 and 29 are amended. No new matter is introduced. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, at page 12, lines 2 - 25 of Applicants' specification.

II. Objection to Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). Specifically, the Examiner finds that the flap parts and related sensor as claimed in claims 13 and 16 are not illustrated by the drawings. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 13 claims a device for sorting laundry pieces as claimed in claims 29, 11 and 12, which includes a funnel for transferring laundry pieces that has a flap floor comprising a plurality of flap parts that open and close to transfer the laundry pieces to a transport device. Claim 16 claims the device of claim 13, further comprising a sensor at each flap part for recognizing a predetermined volume of laundry pieces on the flap parts.

As described for example at page 24, lines 6 - 16 of Applicants' specification, each of funnels 24, 26 as illustrated in FIG. 1 has a flap floor 32 comprising two flap parts 28, 30 that open downwardly to dispense pieces of laundry in the funnels 24, 26. Sensors 34, 36 are respectively

- 8, 12, 15, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lawandy in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,597,527 to Lane ("Lane"), U.S. Patent No. 5,700,293 to Rydell ("Rydell") and U.S. Patent No. 4,239,435 to Weiss et al. ("Weiss"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In the interests of prosecution efficiency, Applicants cancel claim 10 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend independent claims 17, 23 and 29 to essentially include the elements of allowable claim 10. As noted above, claim 10 was identified by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter.

As a result, Applicants respectfully submit that each of amended independent claims 17, 23 and 29 includes allowable subject matter as identified by the Examiner, and that each of claims 17, 23 and 29 therefore stands in condition for allowance for at least this reason. As each of claims 2 - 7, 11, 12, 15, 18 - 20, 24 - 26, and 31 depends from one of allowable independent claims 17, 23, and 29, Applicants submit that dependent claims 2 - 7, 11, 12, 15, 18 - 20, 24 - 26, and 31 are also allowable for at least this reason.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 2 - 7, 11, 12, 15, 17 - 20, 23 - 26, 29 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e), 103(a) therefore be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below once he has reviewed the proposed amendment if the Examiner believes any issue can be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment.

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Respectfully submitted

By



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